ROMANCES FROM LIFE

REAL LOVE

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FEB. 10c

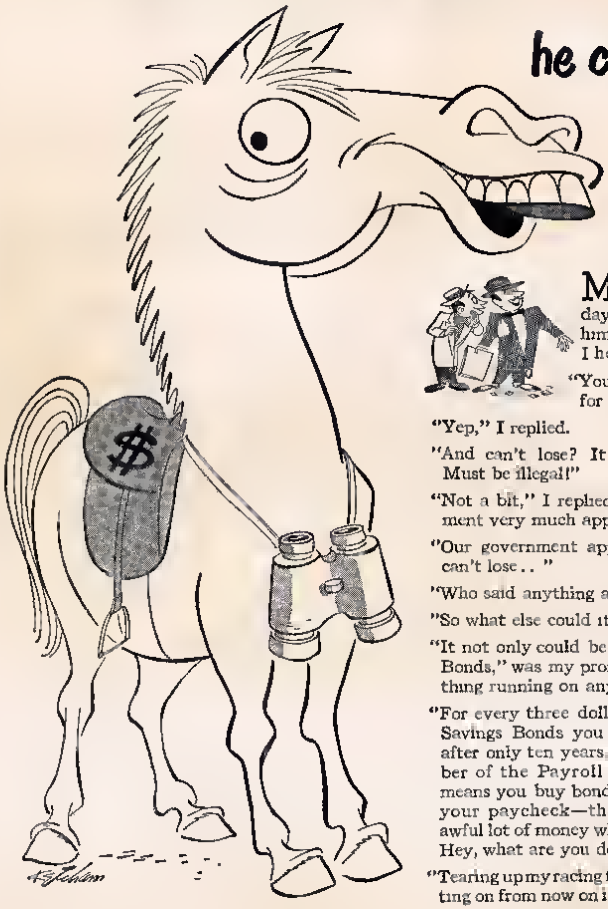
LOVELY LIAR

PAID-FOR DATES

and other exciting true-life romances

10¢

"There's no such animal," he cried!



MY FRIEND and I were picking the ponies one day when I started telling him about a *sure thing* I heard about

"You say it pays four bucks for every three?" he asked.

"Yep," I replied.

"And can't lose? It *automatically* wins? Must be illegal!"

"Not a bit," I replied. "In fact, the government very much approves..."

"Our government approves of a horse who can't lose.. "

"Who said anything about a horse?" I asked.

"So what else could it be but a horse...?"

"It not only could be—but is—U. S. Savings Bonds," was my prompt reply. "The surest thing running on any track today.

"For every three dollars you invest in U. S. Savings Bonds you get four dollars back after only ten years. And if you're a member of the Payroll Savings Plan—which means you buy bonds *automatically* from your paycheck—that can amount to an awful lot of money when you're not looking. Hey, what are you doing?"

"Tearing up my racing form! The horse I'm betting on from now on is U. S. Savings Bonds."

Automatic saving is sure saving—U.S. Savings Bonds

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THEY CALLED ME TROUBLE-MAKER

MAYBE YOU KNOW SOMEONE LIKE JANINE! MAYBE YOU'RE LIKE HER YOURSELF! SHE FOUND OUT YOU CAN TALK A MAN OUT OF LOVE WITH YOU IF YOU TALK TOO MUCH, ESPECIALLY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE!

OH, I HEARD THE WHOLE THING! I JUST HAPPENED TO BE WALKING BY THE BOSS'S OFFICE WHEN HE FIRED THEM!

YOU *WOULD* BE JUST WALKING BY THE DOOR, JANINE! TELL US EVERYTHING!

I HAD BEEN BITTER AND UNHAPPY WHEN, AS A CHILD, MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE DIVORCED AND THE COURT DECREED I WAS TO SPEND SIX MONTHS OF EACH YEAR WITH MY FATHER AND SIX MONTHS WITH MY MOTHER. I SOON FOUND THAT I COULD HOLD THE ATTENTION OF EACH OF THEM BY TELLING THEM TALES ABOUT WHAT THE OTHER ONE WAS DOING WHEN I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO GET A JOB, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO GET THE ATTENTION I CRAVED, I BECAME THE ONE WHO ALWAYS KNEW THE LATEST GOSSIP AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE. .

THE BOSS SAID HE'D HEARD TOM AND LYDIA WERE GOING OUT TOGETHER, AND SINCE TOM WAS A MARRIED MAN AND LYDIA KNEW IT, HE WAS GOING TO FIRE THEM BOTH BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T HAVE THINGS LIKE THAT GOING ON IN HIS OFFICE!

WELL, THEY BOTH GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED! BUT I WONDER HOW THE BOSS FOUND OUT ABOUT THEM? MAYBE JANINE TOLD HIM! SHE WAS THE FIRST ONE WHO KNEW THEY WERE GOING TOGETHER!

OH, NO! I WOULDN'T TELL THE BOSS A THING LIKE THAT!

I KNEW THAT I WAS AS PRETTY AND WELL-DRESSED AS ANY OF THE OTHER GIRLS IN THE OFFICE, BUT ALTHOUGH I COULD BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION WHEN I HAD GOSSIP TO IMPART, NEITHER THE MEN NOR GIRLS INCLUDED ME IN DATES...

HOW MANY OF YOU GIRLS WANT TO GO BOWLING TONIGHT?

I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE THEM LIKE ME, BUT THEY JUST SHUT ME OUT OF THINGS! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

AND SO I FACED ANOTHER LONELY EVENING...

ONE PLEASE!

MADGE MAKE UP

WHITE BLOSSOM

EVERYBODY HAS SOMEBODY, BUT SOMETIMES IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN LONELY ALL MY LIFE!

MY MOTHER AND FATHER HAD EACH MARRIED AGAIN AND NOW HAD OTHER FAMILIES. AND DURING THE YEARS WHEN MY TIME HAD BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN THEM, I HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FORM ANY LASTING CONTACTS OR FRIENDS BECAUSE OF THE SHORTNESS OF MY STAY IN EACH PLACE AND MY FEELING OF INSECURITY AND NOT-BELONGING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE I LONGED FOR LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP AND A SPOT IN SOMEONE'S LIFE AND HEART THAT BELONGED JUST TO ME...

I NEVER GAVE UP HOPE THAT MY SYSTEM OF KNOWING INTERESTING THINGS WOULD MAKE ME A PART OF THE OFFICE GROUP...

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S GOING TO TAKE TOM'S PLACE AS OFFICE MANAGER, JANINE?

OH, YES! THE BOSS'S NEPHEW IS COMING FROM THE BOSTON OFFICE. HE'S BEEN THERE SINCE HE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE! THE GIRLS THERE WERE CRAZY ABOUT HIM, I HEAR!

WELL, WELL! SUCH IS FAME! THANKS FOR THE BUILD-UP!

I'M ALEC HAYNES, THE NEW OFFICE MANAGER, AND I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU ALL!
OH!

YOU SEEM TO KNOW ALL ABOUT ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU, ALTHOUGH I'D LIKE TO!
I -- I'M JANINE BASSETT!

I COULDN'T GET ALEC HAYNES OUT OF MY THOUGHTS THAT DAY. I WAS EMBARRASSED THAT HE OVERHEARD ME TALKING ABOUT HIM, BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT THRILLED AND EXCITED ME AND STARTED A NEW DREAM IN MY HEART. THAT EVENING, AFTER WORK ...
OH, MISS BASSETT!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A DINNER DATE, I WONDER IF YOU'D HAVE DINNER WITH ME!
WHY, I'D LOVE TO!
IRT
TO BRONX

IT WAS THE MOST THRILLING EVENING IN MY LIFE ...
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ALL THOSE THINGS ABOUT ME?
I -- I HEARD YOUR UNCLE'S SECRETARY TELLING SOMEONE!

WELL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE GIRLS BEING CRAZY ABOUT ME, BUT I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT SOMEDAY THERE WOULD BE ONE GIRL I'D WANT TO KNOW WAS CRAZY ABOUT ME, BECAUSE I'D BE CRAZY ABOUT HER!
OH!

YOU'RE SO PRETTY AND CUTE, JANINE. I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A LOT OF BOY FRIENDS AND I'LL HAVE A LOT OF COMPETITION!
OH, NO, ALEC. THERE'S NO ONE AT ALL THAT I'M INTERESTED IN!

IT WAS LIKE HAVING EVERY BEAUTIFUL DREAM IN THE WORLD COME TRUE! I COULD SCARCELY BELIEVE IT! ALEC HAYNES HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME!
THESE DATES OF OURS ARE BECOMING SO STEADY, DARLING, I THINK WE'D BETTER PLAN ON PUTTING THEM ON A PERMANENT BASIS!
OH, ALEC!
TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOURSELF, JANINE! ALL I KNOW ABOUT YOU IS THAT I WALKED INTO AN OFFICE AND SAW THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD TALKING ABOUT ME, AND I KNEW I WANTED TO KNOW HER BETTER!
THERE ISN'T MUCH TO TELL, ALEC! MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCED. THEY EACH HAVE MARRIED AGAIN. I HAVE NO ONE!
YOU HAVE ME, JANINE, FROM NOW ON!
THE ECSTASY THAT SWEPT OVER ME WAS SO GREAT THAT IT FRIGHTENED ME! I FELT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO THIS NEW-FOUND HAPPINESS, I COULDN'T STAND IT!
I'M THE HAPPIEST, LUCKIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!
NO, DARLING, I'M THE LUCKIEST MAN!
I SUPPOSE WE HAVE TO GO, BUT I HATE TO!
I USED TO DREAD SUNDAYS, BUT TODAY HAS BEEN THE MOST WONDERFUL DAY IN MY LIFE!
TOMORROW NIGHT AFTER WORK WE'LL GO PICK OUT A RING! THEN WE'LL BE OFFICIALLY ENGAGED!
OH, ALEC!

THE NEXT DAY I HAD NEWS THAT I KNEW COULD NOT HELP BUT MAKE ME THE CENTER OF ATTENTION

I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW-- ALEC HAYNES AND I ARE ENGAGED! WE'RE PICKING OUT MY RING TONIGHT!

YOU REALLY HIT THE JACK-POT THIS TIME, JANINE!

YOU REALLY ARE LUCKY! WHAT DOES THE BOSS THINK ABOUT IT?

OH, ALEC'S FATHER IS THE REAL HEAD OF THE FIRM! THE BOSS IS JUST A YOUNGER BROTHER IN CHARGE OF THIS OFFICE! SOMEDAY ALEC WILL PROBABLY BE THE BIG BOSS HERE!

LATER

OH ALEC, HERE I AM! I THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD NEVER END! WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK SO SERIOUS!

I HEARD WHAT YOU TOLD THEM IN THE OFFICE TODAY, JANINE, ABOUT UNCLE MATT-- AND I DIDN'T LIKE IT! IF IT GOT BACK TO UNCLE MATT, HIS FEELINGS WOULD BE HURT, AND IT CERTAINLY ISN'T A GOOD IDEA TO TEAR A MAN DOWN TO HIS EMPLOYEES!

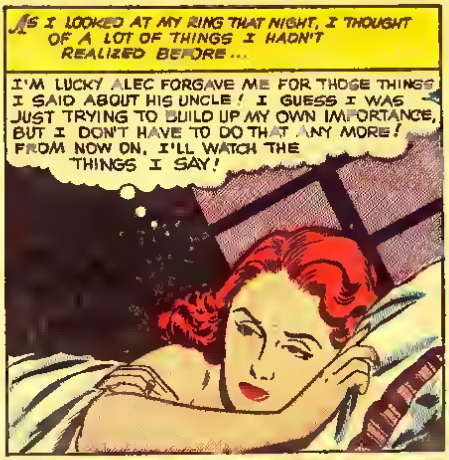
I NEVER TOLD YOU THAT I'D PROBABLY BE THE BIG BOSS OF THIS OFFICE! AND I NEVER TOLD YOU THAT DAD WAS THE REAL HEAD OF THE FIRM! WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION?

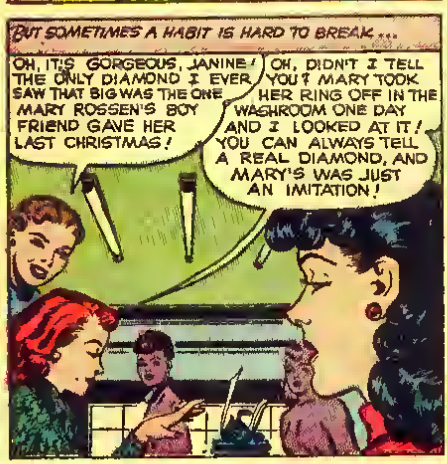
I-- I LOOKED UP THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRM IN THE BUSINESS LIBRARY, AND I FELT WHEN YOUR UNCLE RETIRED, YOU'D BE THE LOGICAL ONE FOR THIS OFFICE!

I'M SORRY, ALEC! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY ANYTHING I SHOULDN'T!

WELL, I DON'T LIKE STORIES LIKE THAT GETTING STARTED OR THE PRIVATE BUSINESS OF THE FAMILY AND FIRM BEING DISCUSSED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE OFFICE!

MY RING IS SO BEAUTIFUL, ALEC! I FEEL SO PROUD AND HUMBLE!
THE RING ISN'T HALF AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE, MY DARLING!


AS I LOOKED AT MY RING THAT NIGHT, I THOUGHT OF A LOT OF THINGS I HADN'T REALIZED BEFORE...
I'M LUCKY ALEC FORGAVE ME FOR THOSE THINGS I SAID ABOUT HIS UNCLE! I GUESS I WAS JUST TRYING TO BUILD UP MY OWN IMPORTANCE, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT ANY MORE! FROM NOW ON, I'LL WATCH THE THINGS I SAY!


BUT SOMETIMES A HABIT IS HARD TO BREAK...
OH, IT'S GORGEOUS, JANINE! THE ONLY DIAMOND I EVER SAW THAT BIG WAS THE ONE MARY ROSSEN'S BOY FRIEND GAVE HER LAST CHRISTMAS!
OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU? MARY TOOK HER RING OFF IN THE WASHROOM ONE DAY AND I LOOKED AT IT! YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A REAL DIAMOND, AND MARY'S WAS JUST AN IMITATION!

AS SOON AS I'D SAID IT, I WAS ASHAMED...
OH, I'M SORRY! I GUESS THAT WAS A MEAN THING TO TELL!
THAT SHOULDN'T BOTHER YOU, JANINE!

I SAW THE SCORN IN THEIR EYES AND SUDDENLY I KNEW WHY THEY HAD NEVER BEEN MORE FRIENDLY. PEOPLE MAY LISTEN TO GOSSIP, BUT THEY HAVE LITTLE RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO TELL TALES. ONCE AGAIN I DETERMINED THAT I WOULD WATCH MY WORDS. BUT I HAD WAITED TOO LONG TO TURN OVER THIS NEW LEAF...

LATER THAT DAY, I WAS CALLED TO THE BOSS'S OFFICE. ALEC WAS THERE, TOO...
MISS BASSETT, MARY ROSSEN, ONE OF OUR MOST EFFICIENT AND FAITHFUL EMPLOYEES WAS FOUND AT HER DESK IN TEARS TODAY, AND THE CAUSE OF IT WAS A STORY TRACED BACK TO YOU!

IT SEEMS THAT MARY HAS BEEN WEARING A RING THAT WASN'T REAL, BUT SHE WANTED PEOPLE TO THINK IT WAS! THIS MIGHT BE A WRONG IDEA, BUT IT WAS HER OWN BUSINESS! I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ENGAGED TO MY NEPHEW, BUT FRANKLY, I DON'T WANT YOU IN MY OFFICE! YOU'RE A TROUBLE-MAKER!
OH!

I'VE BEEN AWARE EVER SINCE YOU CAME THAT YOU'VE SNOOPED AROUND AND LISTENED AND PIECED THINGS TOGETHER TO MAKE TALES TO CARRY BACK TO THE OFFICE!

THE SIGHT OF ALEC STANDING THERE, GRIM AND SILENT, LISTENING TO THE HORRIBLE TRUTH ABOUT ME, WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR...

EVERYTHING YOU SAY IS TRUE! BUT I JUST FOUND IT OUT ABOUT MYSELF! I--I'M SO ASHAMED! I'LL LEAVE, AND I KNOW ALEC WON'T WANT TO MARRY A GIRL LIKE ME!

I REALIZE NOW THE KIND OF REPUTATION I'VE BUILT UP! I'M NOT SURPRISED NO ONE WANTED TO DATE ME OR BE FRIENDS WITH ME! THEY WERE AFRAID OF MY GOSSIPING TONGUE! I HAD MY CHANCE WITH ALEC--TO BE DIFFERENT-- BUT NOW I'VE LOST THAT!

REALIZING THOSE THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF IS HALF THE BATTLE! ALTHOUGH I SAID I DIDN'T WANT YOU AS AN EMPLOYEE, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU MAY MAKE ALEC A GOOD WIFE!

YOU BET SHE WILL!

UNCLE MATT IS RIGHT, DARLING! KNOWING ABOUT YOURSELF WILL HELP YOU TO CHANGE! AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS MADE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE! YOU WANTED THE LOVE AND ATTENTION YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T GIVE YOU! BUT I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU!

OH, ALEC, YOU MEAN YOU FORGIVE ME--YOU STILL LOVE ME?

OH, ALEC, I'LL CHANGE! I'LL NEVER GOSSIP OR CARRY TALES OR TALK ABOUT ANYONE! I'LL WATCH MYSELF EVERY MINUTE, BECAUSE IF I LOST YOU...

YOU WON'T LOSE ME, SWEET, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE SORRY FOR ANY HURT YOU'VE CAUSED ANYONE, AND IT'S YOUR SWEETNESS I LOVE! WE'LL FORGET THE REST!

The End

Rebellion of Jacinta Perry

SHE WOULD ALWAYS WEAR HIS BRAND ON HER BODY AS WELL AS HER HEART! IT WAS THE PENALTY FOR KISSES SHE HADN'T MEANT...

WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOU GOIN' INTO TOWN TO FIND A JOB?

MOM AND I HAVE SORT OF GOTTEN INTO THE HABIT OF EATING, AND I AIM TO SEE THAT WE DO!

MY FATHER HAD GONE TO TEXAS WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG MAN, HOPING SOMEDAY TO BE A "CATTLE BARON" WITH HUGE SPRAWLING ACRES AND THOUSANDS OF HEAD OF CATTLE--OR TO BECOME WEALTHY OVERNIGHT WITH OIL GUSHING FROM HIS LAND. BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS EVER CAME TO PASS. HE DIED; LEAVING MY MOTHER WORN-WORN AND OLD BEFORE HER TIME, AND A DESOLATE, BARREN BIT OF LAND AND A FEW HEAD OF CATTLE FOR US TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE TO LIVE. MY OWN PLAN IN LIFE WAS TO FIND AN ESCAPE FOR MY MOTHER AND MYSELF, AND THAT IS WHY I FOUGHT MY LOVE FOR LANDER FARSON...

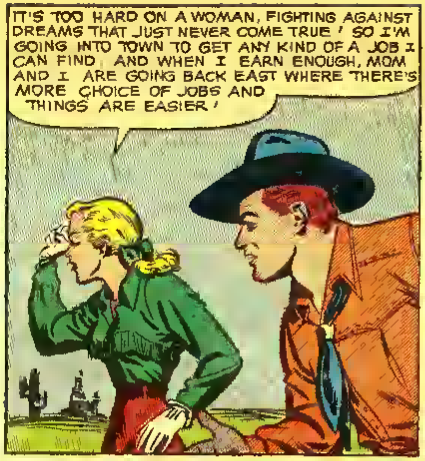
YOU KNOW HOW CRAZY I AM ABOUT YOU, JACINTA! I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES I WANT TO MARRY YOU AN' TAKE CARE OF YOU AN' YOUR MOM!

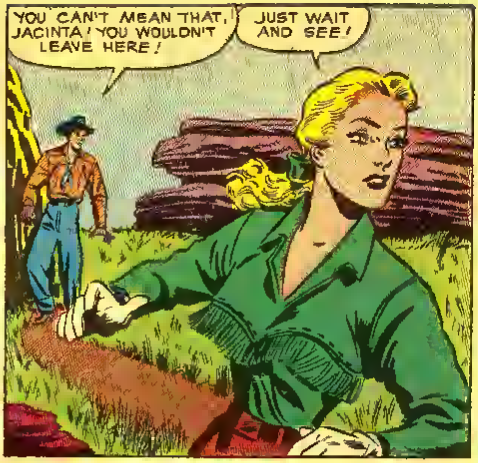
COW-PUNCHING FOR CLINT VAN HORN DOESN'T BRING YOU IN MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOUR OWN GROCERIES, AND THAT LAND OF YOURS IS JUST AS BARE AND NO-ACCOUNT AS POP'S!

I DIDN'T WANT TO FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT LANDER, BECAUSE I WAS SURE HIS LIFE WOULD BE A DUPLICATE OF MY FATHER'S, AND IF I MARRIED HIM, MY OWN LIFE WOULD BE AS HARD AND HOPELESS AS MOM'S HAD BEEN. BUT SOMETIMES WHEN LAN HELD ME IN HIS ARMS, IT WAS HARD TO FIGHT MY EMOTIONS...

WE LOVE EACH OTHER, HONEY! AND WHEN PEOPLE LOVE EACH OTHER THEY CAN ALWAYS MANAGE! I'M NOT ALWAYS GOING TO BE PUNCHING COWS FOR CLINT VAN HORN! SOMEDAY WE'LL HAVE OUR OWN RANCH. OR MAYBE WE'LL HIT A GUSHER!

OH, LAN! THAT'S THE WAY POP ALWAYS TALKED!


IT'S TOO HARD ON A WOMAN, FIGHTING AGAINST DREAMS THAT JUST NEVER COME TRUE! SO I'M GOING INTO TOWN TO GET ANY KIND OF A JOB I CAN FIND AND WHEN I EARN ENOUGH, MOM AND I ARE GOING BACK EAST WHERE THERE'S MORE CHOICE OF JOBS AND THINGS ARE EASIER!


YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT, JACINTA! YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE HERE!
JUST WAIT AND SEE!

EARLY NEXT MORNING, I STARTED FOR TOWN..
I DIDN'T DARE TELL LAN THAT I'D ALREADY LINED UP A JOB IN "MUSTANG" BARTOLO'S PLACE IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS-- BUT HE MIGHT HAVE TRIED TO STOP ME!

"MUSTANG" BARTOLO RAN AN ELABORATE AND ILLEGAL GAMBLING JOINT AND SALOON AND MY JOB WAS TO ACT AS WAITRESS OR BAR-GIRL. I HADN'T EVEN TOLD MY MOTHER I WAS GOING TO WORK HERE BECAUSE I KNEW HOW SHOCKED SHE WOULD BE...
THIS ISN'T NEARLY AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!

THE GOOD PART OF THE JOB WAS THE PAY AND THE TIPS, MUCH MORE THAN I COULD HAVE EARNED ANYWHERE ELSE I FIGURED IF I COULD KEEP MOM FROM FINDING OUT WHAT MY JOB REALLY WAS, IN TWO WEEKS I COULD EARN ENOUGH TO TAKE US BACK EAST WHERE MOM STILL HAD RELATIVES...

ALTHOUGH I WAS DETERMINED THAT LAN HAD NO PLACE IN MY LIFE, I WAS GLAD HE WAS NOT THE KIND WHO WOULD BE A CUSTOMER IN THE PLACE WHERE I WORKED, AND HOPED HE WOULD NOT HEAR I WAS HERE. HOWEVER, ONE DAY CLINT VAN HORN THE MAN HE WORKED FOR, CAME IN...
WELL, IF IT AIN'T LANDER FARGON'S LITTLE SWEETHEART!

I SURE NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE JACINTA PERRY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS! I'M SURPRISED LAN WOULD PUT UP WITH IT!
LAN HAS NO SAY AS TO WHAT I CAN DO! BUT YOU'LL OBLIGE ME IF YOU DON'T MENTION TO HIM THAT YOU SAW ME HERE!

YOU JUST BE NICE TO ME, HONEY, AN' LAN AIN'T GOIN' TO HEAR FROM ME NOTHIN' ABOUT YOU! HOW ABOUT ME WAITIN' FOR YOU AN' TAKIN' YOU HOME?

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, MR. VAN HORN! I'M NOT INTERESTED!

KIND OF HIGH-AND-MIGHTY, AIN'T YOU, FOR A GAL WHO WOULD WORK IN A PLACE LIKE "MUSTANG'S"!

WHERE I WORK IS MY OWN BUSINESS, AND I DON'T APPRECIATE HAVING MARRIED MEN MAKE PASSES AT ME! AND I DON'T CARE IF THEY DO OWN HALF THE CATTLE IN TEXAS!

MAYBE I WASN'T TOO SMART TO TALK TO CLINT VAN HORN THAT WAY. HE MAY TELL LAN WHERE I'M WORKING JUST OUT OF MEANNESS NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOULD CARE. IT'S NONE OF LAN'S BUSINESS EITHER!

THAT NIGHT...

LOOK, MOM--MY SALARY AND TIPS FOR THE WEEK! START PACKING TOMORROW, BECAUSE NEXT WEEK THIS TIME WE'RE CATCHING THE BUS EAST!

OH, JACINTA!

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO TOWN IN SO LONG, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE EATING PLACES THERE! YOU MUST BE WORKING IN A WONDERFUL PLACE TO MAKE SO MUCH MONEY!

OH, WAITRESSES MAKE GOOD MONEY NOW, MOM--AND A LOT OF MEN EAT IN THIS PLACE AND THEY TIP GOOD!

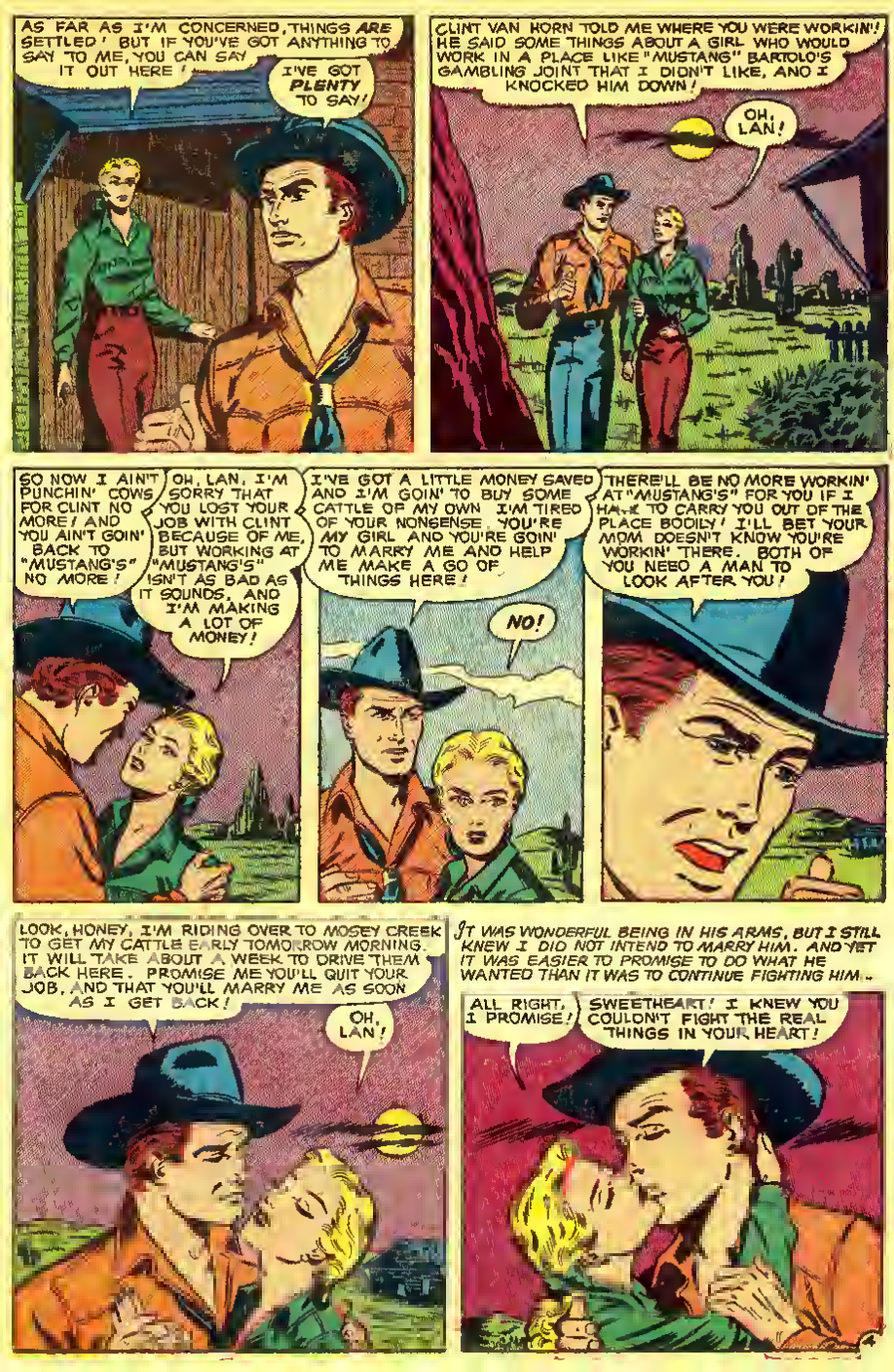
JACINTA, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LEAVE HERE? I ALWAYS THOUGHT MAYBE YOU AND LAN...

NOW, MOM! YOU'VE HAD A TOUGH DEAL ALL YOUR LIFE, AND I DON'T AIM TO HAVE THE SAME SET-UP WE'RE LEAVING!

AFTER MY MOTHER HAD GONE TO BED, I HEARD A FAMILIAR RAP...

LAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO SETTLE UP, JACINTA!


AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THINGS ARE SETTLED! BUT IF YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING TO SAY TO ME, YOU CAN SAY IT OUT HERE!
I'VE GOT PLENTY TO SAY!
CLINT VAN HORN TOLD ME WHERE YOU WERE WORKIN'! HE SAID SOME THINGS ABOUT A GIRL WHO WOULD WORK IN A PLACE LIKE "MUSTANG" BARTOLO'S GAMBLING JOINT THAT I DIDN'T LIKE, AND I KNOCKED HIM DOWN!
OH, LAN!
SO NOW I AIN'T PUNCHIN' COWS FOR CLINT NO MORE! AND YOU AIN'T GOIN' BACK TO "MUSTANG'S" NO MORE!
OH, LAN, I'M SORRY THAT YOU LOST YOUR JOB WITH CLINT BECAUSE OF ME, BUT WORKING AT "MUSTANG'S" ISN'T AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS, AND I'M MAKING A LOT OF MONEY!
I'VE GOT A LITTLE MONEY SAVED AND I'M GOIN' TO BUY SOME CATTLE OF MY OWN. I'M TIRED OF YOUR NONSENSE. YOU'RE MY GIRL AND YOU'RE GOIN' TO MARRY ME AND HELP ME MAKE A GO OF THINGS HERE!
NO!
THERE'LL BE NO MORE WORKIN' AT "MUSTANG'S" FOR YOU IF I HAVE TO CARRY YOU OUT OF THE PLACE BODILY! I'LL BET YOUR MOM DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE WORKIN' THERE. BOTH OF YOU NEED A MAN TO LOOK AFTER YOU!
LOOK, HONEY, I'M RIDING OVER TO MOSEY CREEK TO GET MY CATTLE EARLY TOMORROW MORNING. IT WILL TAKE ABOUT A WEEK TO DRIVE THEM BACK HERE. PROMISE ME YOU'LL QUIT YOUR JOB, AND THAT YOU'LL MARRY ME AS SOON AS I GET BACK!
OH, LAN!
IT WAS WONDERFUL BEING IN HIS ARMS, BUT I STILL KNEW I DID NOT INTEND TO MARRY HIM. AND YET IT WAS EASIER TO PROMISE TO DO WHAT HE WANTED THAN IT WAS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING HIM.
ALL RIGHT, I PROMISE!
SWEETHEART! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T FIGHT THE REAL THINGS IN YOUR HEART!

BUT THAT NIGHT, AS I WATCHED LAN RIDE AWAY, I FELT THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN

OH, LAN, I DO LOVE YOU. BUT I'LL GET OVER IT AND SO WILL YOU! I HAD TO LIE TO YOU OR YOU MIGHT HAVE RAISED A SCENE AT "MUSTANG'S", OR TOLD MOM WHERE I WAS WORKING! BUT NOW WHEN YOU COME BACK, WE'LL BE GONE!

IT WAS MY LAST DAY AT "MUSTANG'S" PLACE. TOMORROW MORNING MOM AND I WOULD BE SAFELY ON THE BUS GOING EAST. I WAS SURE LAN WOULDN'T BE BACK WITH HIS CATTLE FOR AT LEAST A DAY OR TWO, BUT TOWARD THE END OF THE DAY...

LAN!

I STOPPED BY YOUR HOUSE. YOUR MOM WAS ALL PACKED AND TOLD ME YOU WERE LEAVING TOMORROW MORNING, SO I FIGURED I'D FIND YOU HERE! YOU DIDN'T INTEND TO KEEP ANY OF YOUR PROMISES, DID YOU? YOU PLAYED ME FOR A FOOL, FIGURING YOU'D BE GONE WHEN I GOT BACK!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I'M AIMIN' TO TAKE THIS GIRL OUT OF HERE AND NOBODY BETTER STOP ME!

LAN! STOP! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!

I'VE GOT THE RIGHT OF A MAN WHO'S BEEN LIED TO AND CHEATED AND WHO LOVED SOMEBODY WHO WASN'T WORTH LOVING!

LAN! PLEASE! YOU'RE ACTING CRAZY!

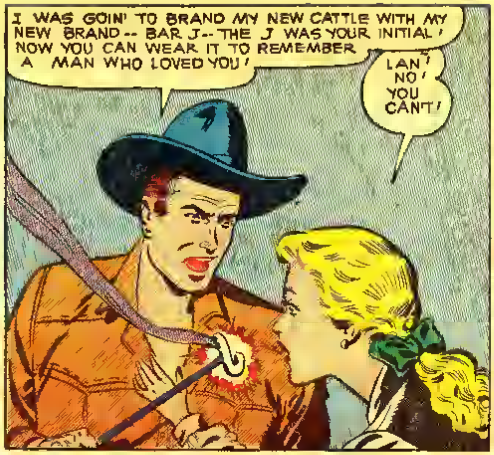
MUSTA

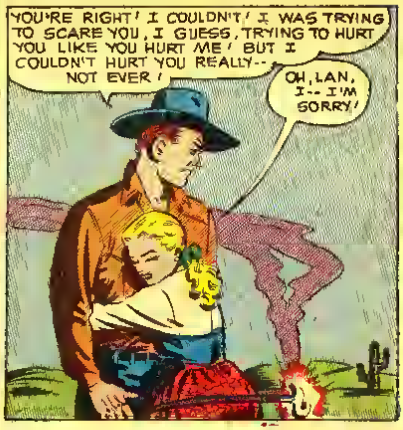
I HAD NEVER SEEN LAN LIKE THIS AND I WAS FRIGHTENED...

SURE I'M ACTING CRAZY! I WAS CRAZY TO LOVE YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE! I CAME BACK SO HAPPY, REMEMBERING YOUR PROMISE, BRINGING THE CATTLE AND THINKING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS I'D BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SOMEDAY!

LAN GALLOPED BACK TO HIS LITTLE RANCH, AND ALTHOUGH I STRUGGLED FURIOUSLY, HIS STRENGTH WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME TO FIGHT

WELL, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR MOM AND GO BACK EAST LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING RIGHT ALONG, BUT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO TAKE WITH YOU!


I WAS GOIN' TO BRAND MY NEW CATTLE WITH MY NEW BRAND -- BAR J -- THE J WAS YOUR INITIAL! NOW YOU CAN WEAR IT TO REMEMBER A MAN WHO LOVED YOU!
LAN! NO! YOU CAN'T!

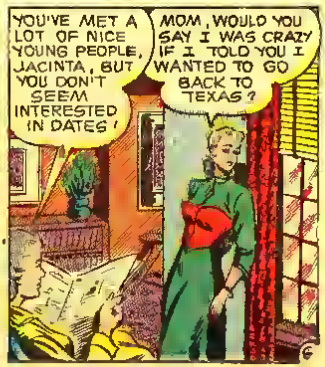

SUDDENLY, HE THREW THE BRAND FROM HIM..
YOU'RE RIGHT! I COULDN'T! I WAS TRYING TO SCARE YOU, I GUESS, TRYING TO HURT YOU LIKE YOU HURT ME! BUT I COULDN'T HURT YOU REALLY -- NOT EVER!
OH, LAN, I -- I'M SORRY!

WEAK WITH REACTION, I CLUNG TO LAN, BUT HE PUSHED ME AWAY..
OH, SURE, YOU'RE SORRY! I'M SORRY TOO! SORRY I ACTED CRAZY! SO LONG, JACINTA! I GUESS THIS WASHES US UP -- FOR GOOD!

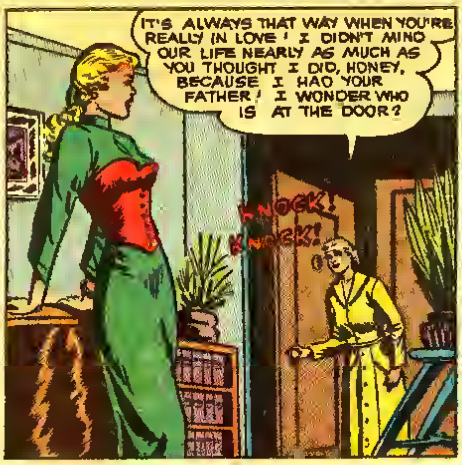
AS HE PUSHED ME, I STUMBLED AND FELL ON THE BRANDING IRON
OHHHH! M--MY ARM!

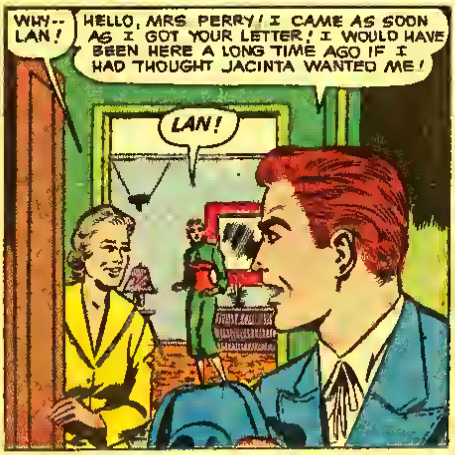
LAN DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. SOMEHOW I STUMBLED HOME..
IT'S A BAD BURN, HONEY!
I -- I FELL ON LAN'S BRANDING IRON!

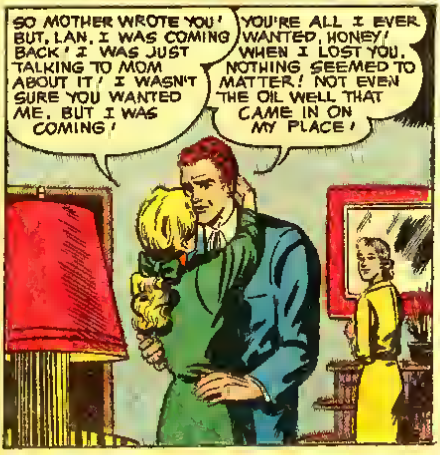
MOM AND I LEFT THE NEXT MORNING JUST AS WE HAD INTENDED. MY ARM THROBBED AND PAINED WHEN WE REACHED OUR DESTINATION. I HAD TO HAVE MEDICAL ATTENTION. FINALLY THE BURN HEALED, BUT THE SCAR REMAINED -- LAN'S BRAND!


AND LAN'S IMAGE REMAINED ON MY HEART. I HAD A JOB IN A STORE AND MOM AND I HAD A NICE LITTLE APARTMENT, BUT SOMEHOW I WASN'T HAPPY..
YOU'VE MET A LOT OF NICE YOUNG PEOPLE, JACINTA, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM INTERESTED IN DATES!
MOM, WOULD YOU SAY I WAS CRAZY IF I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO GO BACK TO TEXAS?

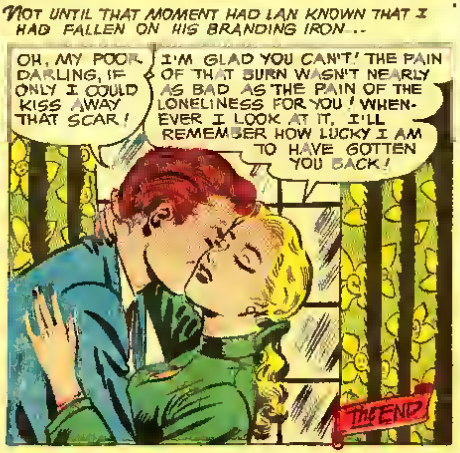
NO, DEAR! I'D SAY YOU WERE SMART! I'VE BEEN WONDERING HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE YOU TO FIND OUT THAT WHEN YOU LOVE A MAN, YOU'RE HAPPY ONLY WHERE HE IS!
MAYBE LAN WON'T WANT ME NOW! MAYBE HE'S FED UP WITH THE WAY I ACTED! BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS, I WANT TO BE WITH HIM AND SHARE HIS LIFE!


IT'S ALWAYS THAT WAY WHEN YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE! I DIDN'T MIND OUR LIFE NEARLY AS MUCH AS YOU THOUGHT I DID, HONEY, BECAUSE I HAD YOUR FATHER! I WONDER WHO IS AT THE DOOR?
KNOCK! KNOCK!


WHY-- LAN!
HELLO, MRS PERRY! I CAME AS SOON AS I GOT YOUR LETTER! I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME AGO IF I HAD THOUGHT JACINTA WANTED ME!
LAN!


SO MOTHER WROTE YOU! BUT, LAN, I WAS COMING BACK! I WAS JUST TALKING TO MOM ABOUT IT! I WASN'T SURE YOU WANTED ME, BUT I WAS COMING!
YOU'RE ALL I EVER WANTED, HONEY! WHEN I LOST YOU, NOTHING SEEMED TO MATTER! NOT EVEN THE OIL WELL THAT CAME IN ON MY PLACE!

AN OIL WELL? OH, LAN, I'M ALMOST SORRY! I WANTED TO PROVE TO YOU THAT I HAD GOTTEN OVER EXPECTING THINGS TO BE EASY, AND THAT YOUR LOVE WAS ENOUGH! I DIDN'T NEED YOUR BRAND TO KNOW I BELONGED TO YOU!
MY BRAND?


NOT UNTIL THAT MOMENT HAD LAN KNOWN THAT I HAD FALLEN ON HIS BRANDING IRON...
OH, MY POOR DARLING, IF ONLY I COULD KISS AWAY THAT SCAR!
I'M GLAD YOU CAN'T! THE PAIN OF THAT BURN WASN'T NEARLY AS BAD AS THE PAIN OF THE LONELINESS FOR YOU! WHENEVER I LOOK AT IT, I'LL REMEMBER HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE GOTTEN YOU BACK!
THE END

Lovely Liar

I HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO HAVE THE THINGS OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE MY AGE SEEMED TO HAVE AND I HAD NEVER REALLY BEEN A PART OF THE "GANG". MY FATHER WAS ONE OF THOSE BRILLIANT PEOPLE WHO FOR SOME REASON CAN NEVER HOLD A JOB, AND WE ALWAYS LIVED ON THE RAGGED EDGE OF POVERTY. EVER SINCE I COULD REMEMBER I HAD TRIED TO PRETEND THINGS WERE NOT THE WAY THEY WERE AND HAD ENDEAVORED TO COVER UP MY UNHAPPY HOME LIFE . . .

WHY, KIRSTIE COLMAN! SOME OF US WERE WONDERING THE OTHER DAY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO YOU! WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU LEFT SCHOOL!

GROCER

OL 3417

IT WAS A SHAME YOU HAD TO QUIT SCHOOL JUST BEFORE GRADUATION, AND IT MUST BE HORRIBLE WORKING IN THAT CANDY FACTORY!

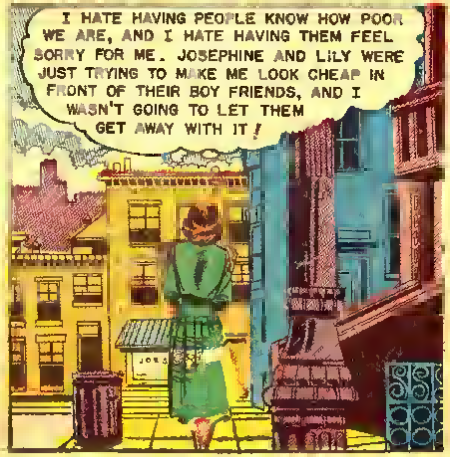
I DIDN'T HAVE TO QUIT SCHOOL! THE MC KAYS ARE OLD FRIENDS OF MY FAMILY AND I HAD A CHANCE TO GET SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB IN THEIR FACTORY THAT IT MADE SCHOOL SEEM LIKE KID-STUFF. I'M HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!

OH, WE DIDN'T REALIZE YOU KNEW THE MC KAYS! THEY REALLY SNOOT THE REST OF THE TOWN! HOW ABOUT YOUNG DAN MC KAY-- IS HE A PAL OF YOURS, TOO?
OH, YES, I KNOW DAN VERY WELL!

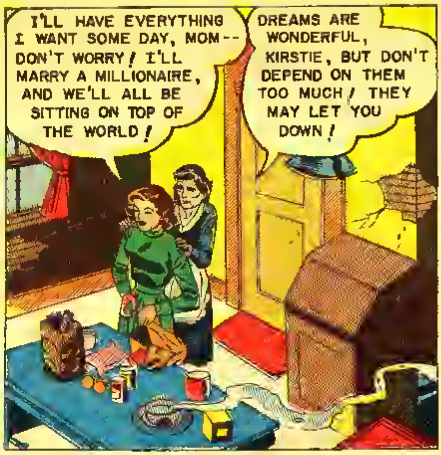
FIRST THING WE KNOW YOU MAY MARRY INTO THE SNOOTY MC KAY CLAN AND STOP SPEAKING TO THE REST OF US!
IT WAS NICE SEEING YOU ALL, BUT I'VE GOT TO RUN NOW! I'M GIVING A LITTLE DINNER PARTY TONIGHT-- THAT'S WHY I'M LOADED DOWN!

I'M SURE THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ME AND ARE LAUGHING AT ME!

I ALWAYS HATE RUNNING INTO JOSEPHINE AND LILY! THEY'VE ALWAYS HAD PRETTY CLOTHES AND NICE HOMES WHERE THEY CAN ENTERTAIN AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN POPULAR AND HAD GOOD TIMES. BUT EVEN WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL, THEY ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO BAIT ME!


I HATE HAVING PEOPLE KNOW HOW POOR WE ARE, AND I HATE HAVING THEM FEEL SORRY FOR ME. JOSEPHINE AND LILY WERE JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK CHEAP IN FRONT OF THEIR BOY FRIENDS, AND I WASN'T GOING TO LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT!

TODAY WAS PAY DAY AT THE FACTORY, MOM, AND I STOPPED AND GOT ALL THE THINGS WE NEED!
OH, KIRSTIE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU AND YOUR JOB! BUT IT SEEMS A SHAME THAT YOU CAN'T USE THE MONEY YOU EARN TO GET YOURSELF SOME OF THE PRETTY CLOTHES YOU WANT!



BUT I HAD TO DREAM. IT WAS ALL THAT MADE LIFE ENDURABLE AND SINCE I HAD GONE TO WORK IN THE MC KAY CANDY FACTORY, MY DREAMS HAD ALL BEEN WOVEN AROUND YOUNG DAN MC KAY. I HAD NEVER SPOKEN TO HIM AND HAD ONLY SEEN HIM AT A DISTANCE, BUT HE WAS YOUNG AND HANDSOME AND WOULD SOMEDAY INHERIT THE MC KAY CANDY FORTUNE...

TO BE FIRED IN FRONT OF DAN MC KAY SEEMED THE MOST IRONIC THING THAT COULD HAPPEN, AND WITH HIM STANDING THERE I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO PLEAD FOR THE JOB I NEEDED SO BADLY!

AS I LEFT THE PACKING ROOM, IT WAS HARD TO HOLD BACK MY TEARS. WHERE WOULD I FIND ANOTHER JOB? THE TOWN HAD GROWN UP AROUND THE MCKAY CANDY FACTORY AND IT WAS THE ONLY LARGE INDUSTRY. . .
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT DREAMING GETS YOU, ALL RIGHT!
WAIT, JUST A MINUTE!
PACKING

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HURRIED OFF SO, MISS. . .
I'M KIRSTIE COLMAN, MR. MCKAY!

MR. SMITH AND I HAVE PERSUADED MISS POLLAND TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE!
WHY, THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU! BUT REALLY, IT WASN'T TOO IMPORTANT!

THIS WAS LIKE MY DREAMS! I WAS ACTUALLY TALKING TO DAN MCKAY. WILDLY I TRIED TO HANG ON TO HIS INTEREST!
MY PARENTS REALLY DON'T WANT ME TO WORK, BUT I'M BORED WHEN I DON'T, AND I'VE LOVED WORKING HERE AND WOULD LIKE TO STAY BECAUSE I FIND IT SO INTERESTING!
I'M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT WORKING HERE, AND I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO STAY!

I'M SURE WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, AND I HOPE WE'RE GOING TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED!
THANK YOU!

THAT NIGHT AS I LEFT THE FACTORY I WAS WRAPPED IN DREAMS THAT THIS TIME HAD A FRAIL FOUNDATION OF REALITY.
OH, KIRSTIE, WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

WE WERE OUT THIS WAY AND WE THOUGHT WE'D WAIT FOR YOU, ALTHOUGH WE WEREN'T SURE THAT YOUR BOY FRIEND, DAN MCKAY MIGHT NOT DRIVE YOU HOME AT NIGHT!
SOMETIMES HE DOES, BUT HE WAS BUSY TONIGHT!

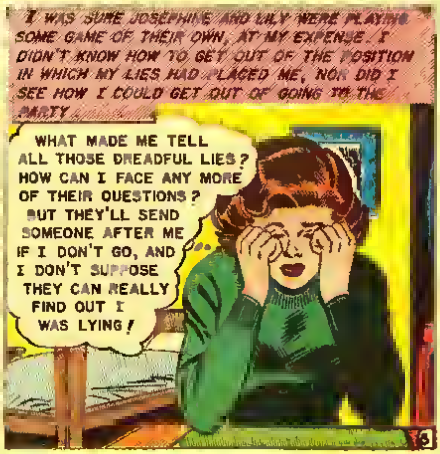
ARE YOU SURE YOU REALLY KNOW HIM, KIRSTIE, OR ARE YOU JUST HANDING US A LINE?
WHY, THE IDEA! OF COURSE I KNOW HIM, AND VERY WELL, TOO!

YOU MEAN YOU ARE ENGAGED TO HIM?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY, BUT...

OH, WE GET IT! A SORT OF UNOFFICIAL ENGAGEMENT! YOU LUCKY GIRL! GOSH, WE'RE GLAD WE KNOW YOU!
I'M GIVING A PARTY NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT, KIRSTIE, AND I WANT YOU TO COME AND BRING DAN MCKAY!

THAT—THAT WOULD BE NICE, BUT I CAN'T! DAN IS GOING OUT OF TOWN OVER THE WEEK END!

THAT'S A SHAME, BUT YOU MUST COME ANYWAY! AFTER ALL, WE ALL WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER!
WHY, THANK YOU, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T COME EITHER!
OF COURSE YOU CAN! WE INSIST! WE'LL SEND ONE OF THE BOYS FOR YOU. WE WON'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER!


I WAS SURE JOSEPHINE AND LILY WERE PLAYING SOME GAME OF THEIR OWN, AT MY EXPENSE. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF THE POSITION IN WHICH MY LIES HAD PLACED ME, NOR DID I SEE HOW I COULD GET OUT OF GOING TO THE PARTY.
WHAT MADE ME TELL ALL THOSE DREADFUL LIES? HOW CAN I FACE ANY MORE OF THEIR QUESTIONS? BUT THEY'LL SEND SOMEONE AFTER ME IF I DON'T GO, AND I DON'T SUPPOSE THEY CAN REALLY FIND OUT I WAS LYING!

I DETERMINED THAT I WOULD NEVER AGAIN TELL LIES TO SAVE MY PRIDE, AND THAT SOMEHOW I MUST GET OUT OF THE PREDICAMENT I HAD GOTTEN MYSELF INTO. THAT SATURDAY NIGHT .
YOU ALL REMEMBER KIRSTIE, DON'T YOU ?

KIRSTIE HAS A BIG JOB WITH THE MCKAY FACTORY NOW, AND WHAT'S MORE SHE'S PRACTICALLY ENGAGED TO DAN MCKAY !
OH, PLEASE !

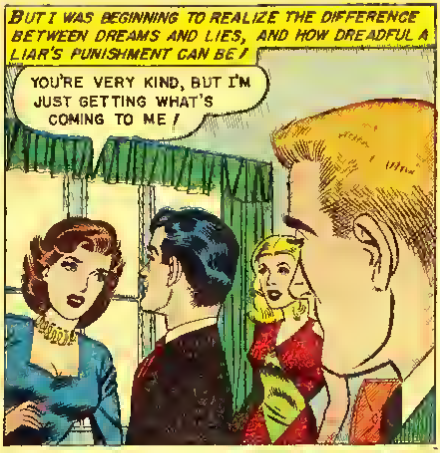
HI, JOSEPHINE, I BROUGHT DAN MCKAY ALONG !
WHY, HOW WONDERFUL TO MEET YOU, MR MCKAY! KIRSTIE TOLD US YOU WERE GOING OUT OF TOWN ! I WANTED HER TO BRING YOU!
OH !

I REALIZED NOW THAT THIS HAD ALL BEEN PLANNED TO TRAP ME, AND I FELT AS THOUGH I WANTED TO DIE !
WE ALL WENT TO SCHOOL WITH KIRSTIE AND WE WERE SO SURPRISED TO HEAR SHE KNEW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ! WE'VE BEEN DYING TO MEET YOU, BUT NOW THAT YOU AND KIRSTIE ARE GOING TOGETHER AND PRACTICALLY ENGAGED . .

IT SEEMS STRANGE THAT KIRSTIE TOLD US YOU WERE GOING OUT OF TOWN . . AND HERE YOU ARE !
I DID THINK I HAD TO TAKE A TRIP THIS WEEK END, BUT IT WAS CALLED OFF ! SURPRISED, KIRSTIE DARLING ?

WHEN PHIL JOHNS CALLED ME UP AND ASKED ME TO COME TO THIS PARTY, I THOUGHT I'D JUST PLAY A JOKE ON YOU AND COME ALONG. I KNEW YOU THOUGHT I WAS GOING OUT OF TOWN !
OH !

SUDDENLY, OVER THE TERRIFIED AND HUMILIATED BEATING OF MY HEART, I HEARD DAN MCKAY WHISPER IN MY EAR
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT I'LL PLAY THE GAME YOUR WAY!


BUT I WAS BEGINNING TO REALIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DREAMS AND LIES, AND HOW DREADFUL A LIAR'S PUNISHMENT CAN BE!
YOU'RE VERY KIND, BUT I'M JUST GETTING WHAT'S COMING TO ME!

I KNEW THAT NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH COULD MAKE ME FEEL RIGHT AGAIN
I WANT TO TELL YOU ALL
NOW, SWEETHEART.

SHE WANTS TO TELL YOU ALL THAT WE'D LOVE TO STAY AND ENJOY THE PARTY BUT WE HAVE SOME WORK TO FINISH UP AT THE OFFICE!
OH!

IT WAS SWELL MEETING YOU ALL, AND THANKS FOR INVITING US! WE'LL BE SEEING YOU AROUND!
WHY, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH AFTER ALL! I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. SHE WAS ALWAYS MAKING UP THINGS IN SCHOOL--NONE OF US COULD BELIEVE A WORD SHE SAID!
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE JOKE IS ON YOU, JOSEPHINE!

I KNEW HOW ANY MAN WOULD REGARD A GIRL WHO HAD TOLD THE LIES I HAD, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO SAVE HER FROM THEIR CONSEQUENCES . . .
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO WONDERFUL, BUT I DIDN'T DESERVE IT!

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT/ I KNEW PHIL JOHNS SLIGHTLY AND HE CALLED ME UP AND ASKED ME TO COME TO THIS PARTY... HE SAID THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING GOING ON I OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT!

OH, I'M SO ASHAMED!

I TOLD DAN EVERYTHING. I DIDN'T TRY TO SPARE MYSELF. I GOT RID OF ALL THOSE UGLY LIES AND HALF-TRUTHS AND IT WAS LIKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR BLOWING THROUGH MY HEART...

YOU HEARD WHAT JOSEPHINE SAID AS WE CAME OUT--THAT I WAS ALWAYS MAKING UP THINGS IN SCHOOL AND THAT NONE OF THEM COULD BELIEVE A WORD I SAID! I USED TO TELL THEM ABOUT THE WONDERFUL CLOTHES I HAD AT HOME, AND THE MONEY WE WOULD SOME DAY INHERIT!

I THOUGHT I WAS SAVING MY PRIDE, BUT ACTUALLY, IF I'D JUST BEEN MYSELF, I REALIZE THEY ALL MIGHT HAVE LIKED AND RESPECTED ME MORE!

BUT THE HABIT OF MIXING LIES AND DREAMS WITH REALITY GROWS, AND YOU DON'T REALIZE IT UNTIL SUDDENLY YOU WAKE UP AND SEE HOW YOU'VE MESSED UP YOUR LIFE! MAYBE WHAT THEY INTENDED TO DO TONIGHT WAS CRUEL, BUT I GUESS I HAD IT COMING TO ME!

BUT THE FACT THAT YOU KNEW YOU WERE WRONG AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO ADMIT IT SHOWS HOW VERY WONDERFUL YOU CAN REALLY BE!

I EVEN LIED TO YOU ABOUT NOT HAVING TO WORK! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ASHAMED BECAUSE POP COULDN'T SUPPORT US! I'VE TRIED TO COVER UP FOR HIM!

I THINK YOU'RE THE SWEETEST, LOVELIEST LITTLE FIBBER I EVER MET, KIRSTIE, AND I HAVE A FEELING THAT SOME OF THOSE CRAZY DREAMS OF YOURS ARE GOING TO BE REALITY!

OH, DAN!

DAN WAS RIGHT--MY CRAZY DREAMS DID COME TRUE! BUT I HAD TO FIND OUT THAT ONLY THE PATH OF TRUTH COULD LEAD ME TO THE HAPPINESS I HAD DREAMED ABOUT!

OH, DAN, THIS IS MORE WONDERFUL THAN MY DREAMS!

AND YOU'RE MORE WONDERFUL THAN ANY MAN COULD DREAM HIS SWEETHEART AND WIFE COULD BE!

THE END

THE CHARM CORNER

DON'T GET THE "NO" HABIT

Elsa admitted that Hoyt was the first boy she'd met in a long time who stirred her interest.

"But I don't suppose I'll see him again," she said regretfully. "We didn't get much chance to talk at the party. And even if he had wanted to ask for my telephone number, he didn't have the opportunity."

"Why don't you call him?" Sally suggested helpfully. "What have you got to lose? You can ask a few of us over for the evening and invite him to join the crowd. That's perfectly permissible, and he might be glad to know you better."

"Maybe," Elsa said doubtfully. "But— well, suppose he thought I was chasing him? Or said he was busy? Or came and was bored? Maybe he wasn't interested in me."

Maybe Elsa was right. Hoyt might have refused her invitation. He might have been bored. He might not have reciprocated Elsa's interest. On the other hand, he might have liked her very much, he might have loved her on better acquaintance, he might have made her happy forever after. Elsa will never know, because she never gave herself the chance to find out.

Too many people, like Elsa, let the "no" habit stand between them and the things they want out of life. There's Doris, who has worked for years at the same, dull, poorly-paid job. Maybe she could get a better one. She thinks about it often. But before she writes a letter of application for a job she'd like, she lets herself think of all the reasons why she might not be suitable, and she doesn't write it.

There's Maida, who won't ever do anything with her lovely singing voice because she thinks that people have to have a "pull" to be recognized in the world of music. There's Coral, whose lonely aloofness is often mistaken for snobbishness. Coral wants to be friendly, but she's afraid people might reject her overtures.

There are great numbers of girls who are missing out on the things that make life worth living, simply because they say no to themselves before giving anyone else the chance to say yes. Don't be one of them!

Negative thinking is a habit. If you have it, make up your mind to get rid of it. It's natural to think of the worst possible thing that could result.

When you consider telephoning that boy you'd like to see again, asking for that raise, applying for that position, taking that trip, you naturally think of the worst consequences that could follow. All right, think of them if you must. But think of them with common sense.

Suppose that "he" does say he's busy? Suppose the job isn't to be had? Suppose you don't enjoy that week-end visit? Will you be one bit worse off for it? Will you have lost anything for trying?

On the other hand, don't let the unpleasant possibilities blot out the pleasant ones. "He" may be glad to hear from you. The boss may have been wondering for weeks why you don't suggest a raise. The week-end trip may decide the course of your future. Bright possibilities are there, right along with the not-so-bright ones.

Of course, you won't get rid of the "no" habit merely by reasoning with yourself. If it's firmly established in your personality, it's a hard habit to break. And the breaking takes drastic measures.

You have to begin by disciplining yourself to make that rebellious "no" habit powerless. And the best beginning you could possibly make is to force yourself to do the thing you fear doing! Make the telephone call, beard the boss in his den—do what you need to do to give yourself a chance.

Remember that failure after trying is no disgrace. Nobody succeeds in everything he attempts. But the failure that comes of not trying is the kind that eats into your self-confidence and makes you less and less likely to find happiness as time goes on. On the other hand, the glow of self-confidence and self-control that comes of having made yourself act in the way you should act builds you up inside and makes you all the stronger and better fitted to cope with your next problem.

So stop saying no to yourself. Say, "Maybe I'll fail, but what if I do? I won't be any worse off than I am now. And, on the other hand, maybe I'll succeed!"

HOW TO "STRING A MAN ALONG" UNTIL YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND. . .

You met him at a party, and he tumbled for you, head over heels. He wanted a date for the next night, and for the next Saturday night, and for the Wednesday after that. His eyes showed his admiration, and his voice betrayed his eagerness. There's no doubt about it—he's in love with you. But there's a catch to it—isn't there always? You're not in love with him. Maybe you could be, maybe you couldn't. But he's a desirable catch, and you want to give yourself a chance to find out what your feelings are or could be before you say yes, no, or maybe.

And yet, if you let him rush things, you'll find yourself faced with an issue before you're ready to make a decision. Nothing is sadder than the regret of a girl who said no and decided later that her answer should have been yes. Or vice versa. Vice versa's worse. So don't let yourself be rushed. In a case like this, the ancient feminine pastime of "stringing a man along" until you know what you want to do about him is fully justified. Just because he jumps to conclusions in a hurry is no sign that you have to do the same.

But how can you hold him off and still keep him in the picture?

That takes time, thought, and technique. There

are important rules. Here are some of them:

1. Don't start dating him exclusively just because he wants to sew up all your available time. If he and your friends should begin to take you and him for granted as a twosome, like moonlight and roses, your saying, "But I don't know if I love you," will come to him as a grievous disappointment and possibly as a cruel hoax that's been played on him. When you let him claim all your time, you're encouraging him before you know that you're ready to back up your encouragement. So give him a date for one Saturday, but tell him you have another date for the one after that. Let him take you to the movies Wednesday, but tell him you have a date for Friday. In short, don't let him take it for granted that he's the only boy on your horizon until you're ready to let him be the only one. Don't worry about denying him dates—if he's really in love with you, your being in demand will only make you seem more desirable.

2. Avoid twosome dates as much as you can. This is so he won't get a chance to ask questions to which you don't yet know the answers, such as, "Do you love me?" When you go out with him, try to have double dates, to call on friends, to be with other people as much as you can.

3. Try to develop interests and hobbies in common. See if you can awaken an enthusiasm for cards, bowling, or some other game or hobby to him that you can work at together. These things cement a friendship as well as serve to keep a boy from concentrating purely on romance.

4. Learn to keep the conversation away from dangerous channels. For instance, if he should say, "I believe in love at first sight," tell him quickly about some case of that kind of love that you know about, and from there, switch the conversation to something else about the people you're talking about. For instance, "They're living in California now—I've always wanted to visit the Coast. Have you ever been there?" Your conversation now is about the Coast and not about love. He'll know what you're doing, of course, but he'll respect you none the less for not wanting to be rushed.

5. Rather than say no, pretend not to take him seriously. For instance, if he says, "I knew the moment I saw you that you were the girl for me," laugh lightly and say, "I'll ask you about that after I've known you longer." In that way you give him the idea that rush judgements don't seem possible to you and that you want to be very sure before you make any judgements of your own. Pretending not to take a boy seriously when he is serious only makes him more serious—and gives you the time to decide whether you're serious yourself or not.

6. Introduce him to your friends. Their reactions to him may help you to make up your mind. Many a girl who's been unsure of her feelings for a boy suddenly decides that she doesn't want him to go out of her life when she sees that the prettiest girl she knows is attracted to him. Or she may decide that she does want to let him go when she sees him in the company of some boy who appeals to her more.

7. Let him see that you like him. Whether or not you love him at the moment, remember that an honest devotion on a boy's part frequently elicits love from a girl, even though she may have thought herself incapable of feeling it for him at first. So tell him the nice things you can honestly tell him about himself—that you admire his taste in neckties or night clubs, that you like being with him, that he's an interesting conversationalist, that you agree with him about certain things—anything to make him feel that you're avoiding issues not because you don't like him, but because you aren't sure. Flattery will keep a boy coming back as effectively as a series of "steady" dates—sometimes more effectively.

8. Be chary with your kisses—but not too chary. The girl who kisses too easily or too often may give a boy the wrong impression of herself. The girl who won't permit any demonstration of affection at all from a boy who's honestly indicated a real love for her gives him the idea that he's not attractive to her. Be responsive when he kisses you, but don't let those kisses happen very often. Let him feel that you find him attractive, but that you don't want to commit yourself in any way until you really know your own mind.

9. Be fair with him. Try to make up your mind as quickly as possible, so that you can either say yes and live happily ever after, or say no and let him try his luck elsewhere. It's possible to string a boy along—but no boy will allow a girl to string him along forever.

WISE GIRLS HAVE GIRL FRIENDS

Many girls boast that they don't have girl friends. They seem to feel this is to their credit, as they glibly state the reasons they don't care for their own sex.

But when you size up the most popular girls you know, you will find they get along as well with girls as with boys. Then, too, a boy is often suspicious of the girl who doesn't get along with other girls. Besides he may want her to get along with his own mother and sister someday.

Also, it is no secret that matchmaking is a woman's field. And who will they think of for their blind dates? Their good friends, of course!

A lone wolfess is cutting her friendships right in half when she eliminates girls since they make up half the world's population. She misses many good times, too. After all, it is the girls who make up the guest lists for parties, dances, and picnics.

So it's the wise girl who makes friends with her own sex. And to put it in the words of a man . . . "I would say to a young man thinking of marriage, 'Choose a girl who has nice girls for her friends and pay no attention to what other men think or say of her.'"

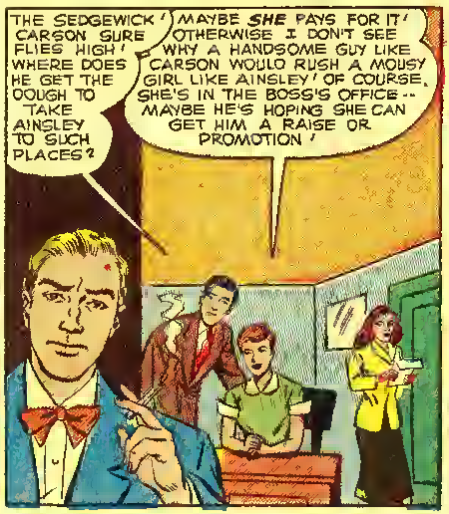
PAID-FOR DATES

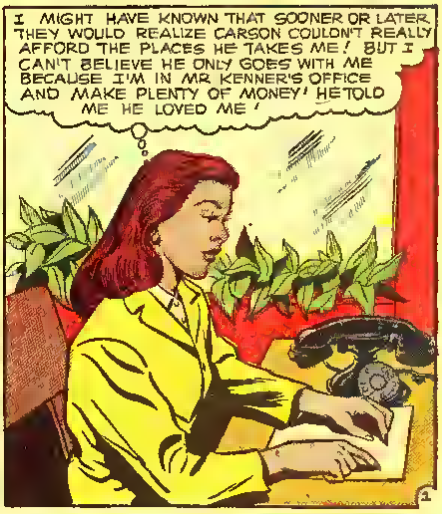
HOW MUCH SHOULD A GIRL GIVE? CARSON WAS THE KIND WHO EXPECTED EVERYTHING AND IF HE DIDN'T GET IT, AINSLEY KNEW SHE WOULD LOSE HIM...

HOW ABOUT GOING TO THE SEDGEWICK FOR THE DINNER-DANCE TONIGHT, AINSLEY?

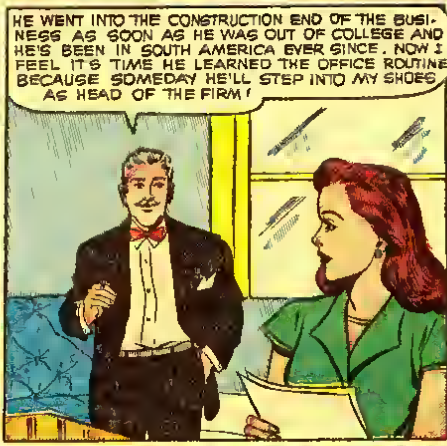
THAT WILL BE WONDERFUL, CARSON!

[illegible] BEEN [illegible] IN [illegible] WHO WERE MUCH PRETTIER THAN I WAS. THAT WAS WHY IT WAS AS SURPRISING TO ME AS IT WAS TO THE REST OF THE OFFICE WHEN THE HANDSOME AND THRILLING CARSON CLAY PICKED ME AS HIS STEADY DATE. I WAS SO MUCH IN LOVE WITH CARSON, I FELT THAT IF I LOST HIM, LIFE WOULDN'T BE WORTH LIVING. AS THE SENIOR MR. KENNER'S SECRETARY, I MADE MORE MONEY THAN CARSON AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE OUTER OFFICE AND I WAS GLAD NO ONE SUSPECTED I FOOTED THE BILLS FOR MOST OF OUR DATES.





I WAS TROUBLED AND DISTURBED BY THE REMARKS I HAD OVERHEARD IN THE OUTER OFFICE AND ALSO BY THE DOUBTS THAT HAD HAUNTED ME EVER SINCE MY FIRST DATE WITH CARSON. I WAS GLAD MY BOSS GAVE ME A LOT OF THINGS TO DO TO KEEP ME FROM THINKING...



IT'S FUNNY HOW THINGS CAN START OUT. THE FIRST TIME CARSON HAD ASKED ME FOR A DATE HE HAD SAID HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO TAKE ME SOMEPLACE NICE BUT COULDN'T AFFORD IT, AND THEN HE HAD LAUGHED BOYISHLY AND SAID, "WE CAN GO, IF YOU LEND ME THE MONEY!" THRILLED AND EXCITED AT HAVING A DATE WITH CARSON, THAT HAD BEEN THE FIRST OF MANY "LOANS", UNTIL NOW I KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT... AND BECAUSE I LOVED HIM I WAS GLAD TO DO MORE THAN MY SHARE...

SO THAT NIGHT WAS THE SAME AS MANY OTHERS...

LOOK, HONEY, WHEN I ASKED YOU TO THE SEDGEWICK I FORGOT THIS WAS THE WEEK TO PAY MY RENT, SO UNLESS YOU CAN...

OH, CARSON, OF COURSE!

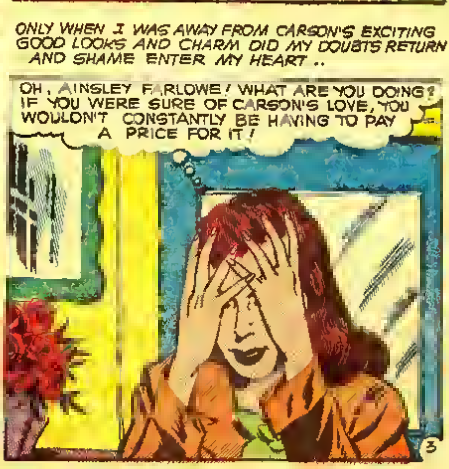
Sedgewick

YOU'RE ONE IN A MILLION, BABY! AND HAVEN'T I SHOWN THAT I KNOW IT! WHY, ALL THE GIRLS IN THE OFFICE THAT THROW THEMSELVES AT ME DON'T STAND A CHANCE! YOU'RE THE GIRL FOR ME!

OH, CARSON!

THAT NIGHT, WHEN CARSON TOOK ME HOME...

ONLY WHEN I WAS AWAY FROM CARSON'S EXCITING GOOD LOOKS AND CHARM DID MY DOUBTS RETURN AND SHAME ENTER MY HEART..



BUT THE NEXT MORNING I WAS ONCE AGAIN THE EFFICIENT MISS FARLOWE...
MISS FARLOWE, THIS IS MY SON, RICKY!
ACCORDING TO POP, YOU'RE THE WORLD'S MOST PERFECT SECRETARY!

I THOUGHT THEY HAD STOPPED MAKING GIRLS LIKE YOU, AINSLEY FARLOWE! YOU DEFINITELY DON'T BELONG IN AN OFFICE!
WELL! REALLY!

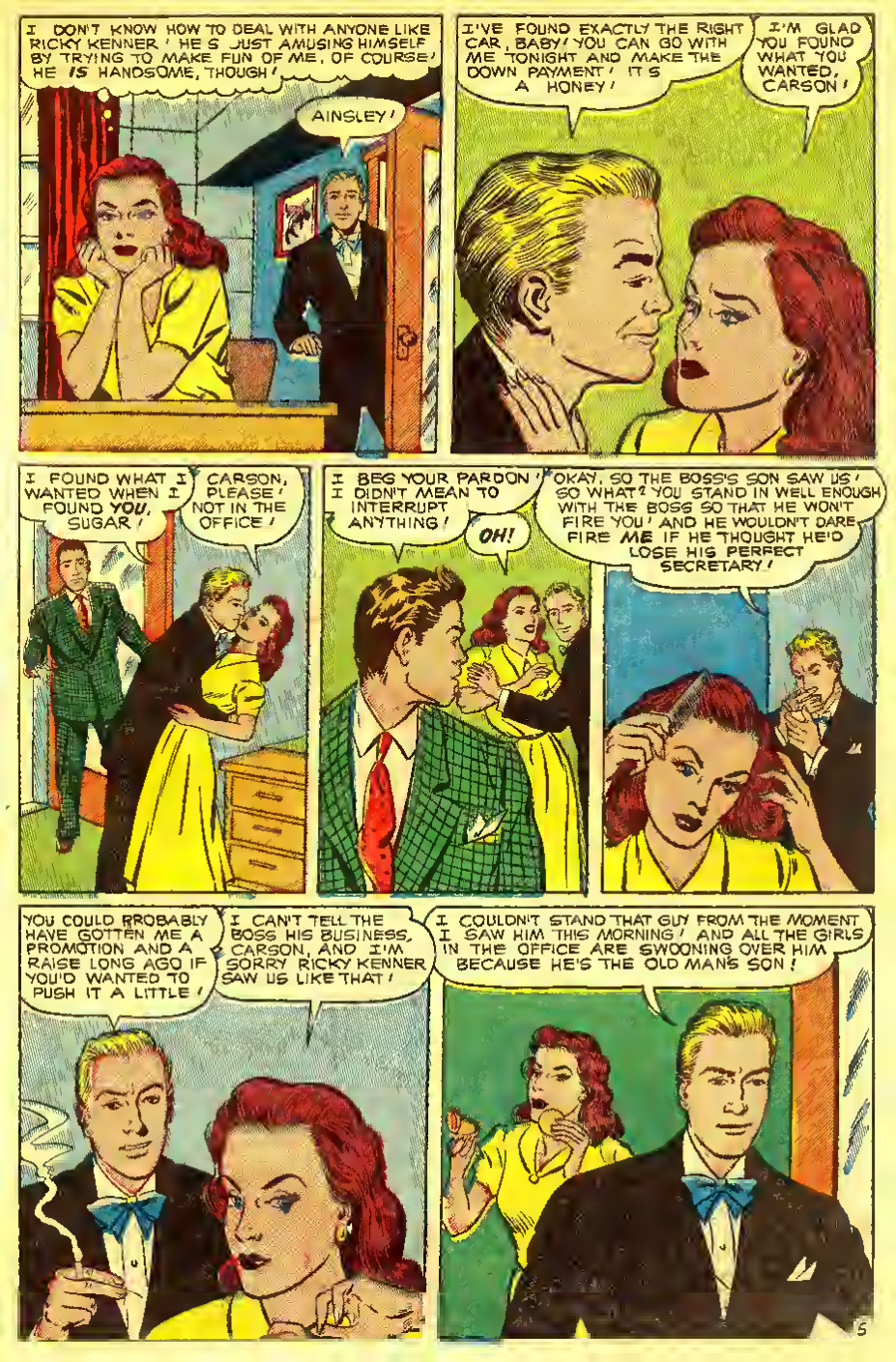
THAT COOL, DEMURE, EFFICIENT FRONT OF YOURS MAY FOOL POP, BUT IT DOESN'T FOOL ME IN THE LEAST! UNDERNEATH YOU'RE A SHY KID WHO WAS AFRAID OF PEOPLE HURTING YOU, AND SO YOU THREW YOURSELF INTO YOUR STUDIES AND YOUR JOB AND GOT AHEAD IN SPITE OF YOURSELF!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE FREE CHARACTER ANALYSIS, MR. KENNER! BUT I PREFER NOT TO MIX BUSINESS AND PERSONALITIES. NOW IF YOU'RE READY, I'LL SHOW YOU OUR FILING SYSTEM!
I SHALL CONSIDER MYSELF SQUELCHED!

I HAD NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE RICKY KENNER BEFORE. HE WAS A DIRECT, OVERWHELMING PERSON, AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS HANDSOME, HE WAS MUCH TOO SURE OF HIMSELF AND I KNEW I WASN'T GOING TO LIKE HIM. PROBABLY BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN RIGHT IN HIS APPRAISAL OF ME!
HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY HAVE KNOWN THOSE THINGS ABOUT ME?

OKAY, SO WE'VE POLISHED OFF THE FILES! NOW HOW ABOUT HAVING LUNCHEON WITH ME?
I'M SORRY, MR. KENNER, I HAVE WORK TO DO! BESIDES, I DON'T BELIEVE LUNCHING WITH YOU IS PART OF MY JOB!

SNUBBED AGAIN! AND JUST BECAUSE I CAN SEE THROUGH THAT QUIET, EFFICIENT EXTERIOR! WE'LL GO INTO THIS MORE THOROUGHLY, AINSLEY, BUT PERHAPS I'D BETTER HAVE LUNCH WITH POP TODAY, ANYHOW!


I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH ANYONE LIKE RICKY KENNER! HE'S JUST AMUSING HIMSELF BY TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME, OF COURSE! HE IS HANDSOME, THOUGH!
AINSLEY!
I'VE FOUND EXACTLY THE RIGHT CAR, BABY! YOU CAN GO WITH ME TONIGHT AND MAKE THE DOWN PAYMENT! IT'S A HONEY!
I'M GLAD YOU FOUND WHAT YOU WANTED, CARSON!
I FOUND WHAT I WANTED WHEN I FOUND YOU, SUGAR!
CARSON, PLEASE! NOT IN THE OFFICE!
I BEG YOUR PARDON! I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT ANYTHING!
OH!
OKAY, SO THE BOSS'S SON SAW US! SO WHAT? YOU STAND IN WELL ENOUGH WITH THE BOSS SO THAT HE WON'T FIRE YOU! AND HE WOULDN'T DARE FIRE ME IF HE THOUGHT HE'D LOSE HIS PERFECT SECRETARY!
YOU COULD PROBABLY HAVE GOTTEN ME A PROMOTION AND A RAISE LONG AGO IF YOU'D WANTED TO PUSH IT A LITTLE!
I CAN'T TELL THE BOSS HIS BUSINESS, CARSON, AND I'M SORRY RICKY KENNER SAW US LIKE THAT!
I COULDN'T STAND THAT GUY FROM THE MOMENT I SAW HIM THIS MORNING! AND ALL THE GIRLS IN THE OFFICE ARE SWOONING OVER HIM BECAUSE HE'S THE OLD MAN'S SON!

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'VE GOT A GUY LIKE ME, BABY! AND WHEN THAT CAR COMES--WOW! WE'LL SHOW THEM ALL A THING OR TWO! SEE YOU AFTER WORK, HONEY! DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE MONEY!

I WAS ASHAMED AND UPSET ABOUT RICKY SEEING ME IN CARSON'S ARMS LATER...

I UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU DIDN'T CARE TO MIX BUSINESS AND PERSONALITIES, BUT I TAKE IT YOU'RE ENGAGED TO MR. CLAY, AND OF COURSE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

NO, I-- I'M NOT ENGAGED!

IT SEEMS I WAS ALSO WRONG IN THAT CHARACTER ANALYSIS, AND WHAT'S UNDER THAT QUIET, EFFICIENT EXTERIOR ISN'T QUITE WHAT I THOUGHT-- SO LET'S START FROM SCRATCH!

OH!

YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO DO THAT, AND I'D RATHER BE FIRED THAN WORK IN THE SAME OFFICE WITH YOU!

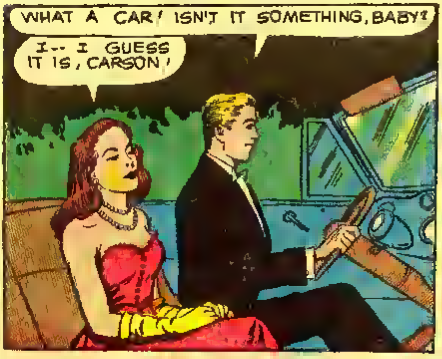
SMACK!

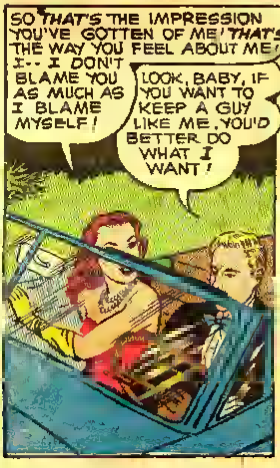
I GUESS I DESERVED THAT, AINSLEY! I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE AND SAY I DID IT ON IMPULSE! WHEN I MET YOU TODAY, YOU SEEMED LIKE THE GIRL I HAD ALWAYS HOPED TO MEET SOMEDAY!

MY FATHER HAD TOLD ME WHAT A PERFECT SECRETARY HE HAD, BUT TODAY I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY MET THE GIRL I HAD DREAMED ABOUT! THERE WAS SOMETHING SWEET AND TENDER AND UNTOUCHED ABOUT YOU!

HIS WONDERFUL KISS HAD LEFT ME SHAKING AND CONFUSED AND FILLED WITH EMOTIONS I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND! NOW HE SAID HE THOUGHT I WAS LOVELY. I-- WHO HAD NEVER BEEN NOTICED UNTIL CARSON DATED ME...

BUT THAT NIGHT I COULDN'T GET RICKY'S LIPS AND WORDS OUT OF MY HEART AND MIND. I MET CARSON AS WE HAD PLANNED, AND CARSON BOUGHT THE CAR HE WANTED WITH THE MONEY I HAD DRAWN OUT OF THE BANK...





STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946
(Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)

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1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are: Publisher, A. A. Wyn, 23 West 47th Street, New York 19, N. Y.; Editor, Rose Wyn, 23 West 47th Street, New York 19, N. Y.; Managing Editor, None; Business Manager, A. A. Wyn, 23 West 47th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) A. A. Wyn, Inc., 23 West 47th Street, New York 19, N. Y.; A. A. Wyn, 23 West 47th Street, New York 19, N. Y.; Rose Wyn, 23 West 47th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee, or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

A. A. Wyn
(Signature of publisher)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1951.

ETTA HARDT, Notary Public
My Commission Expires March 30th, 1953

Goose? or Nest?

WHICH WILL YOU HAVE?

For some reason, the goose egg stands for zero — nothing.

The nest egg, however, stands for a tidy sum of money, set aside for your own or your children's future.

It's hardly necessary to ask you which you'd prefer.

But it *is* necessary to ask *yourself* what you are doing to make sure you *don't* end up with a goose egg instead of a nest egg ten years from now.

The simple, easy, and obvious thing to do is to buy U. S. Savings Bonds.

Buy them regularly, automatically, on a plan that pays for them out of the month-to-month income you make today.

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Automatic saving is sure saving—U.S. Savings Bonds

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